

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6733

BILL NUMBER: SB 248

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 29, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Referendum on Use of Balanced School Calendar.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Leising

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a school corporation to conduct a referendum of the registered voters who reside in the school corporation before establishing a balanced calendar at any school. It provides that if a majority of the voters voting in the referendum do not vote in favor of a balanced calendar, the school corporation must wait at least one year to conduct another referendum.

The bill provides for a referendum to discontinue the use of a balanced calendar by a school corporation if a petition signed by at least 5% of the registered voters who reside in the school corporation is filed with the circuit court clerk of the county containing the greatest number of registered voters who are residents of the school corporation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill may make it harder for a school to change to a balanced school calendar. Currently, a corporation can change to a balanced calendar with school board approval. After June 30, 2012, schools would be required to hold a referendum to establish a balanced calendar. The referendum would be held at the next general, primary, or municipal election unless there is no election within a year of when the question is eligible to be decided. If it is longer than a year to the next election, the school could hold a special election at their expense.

The bill would continue the current procedure of allowing a school to discontinue a balanced calendar with school board approval. The bill would also add a method for the public to discontinue the balanced calendar. If 5% of registered voters sign a petition to discontinue the balanced calendar, then it is placed on the ballot of the next election. The fiscal impact of the bill is probably minor.

Background: A balanced calendar is a school-year calendar in which any break between instructional days is less than six weeks or the instructional days are divided into quarters. There are 25 schools that have year-round calendars or balanced calendars.

When special elections occur, the largest expenditures are ballot printing costs (in counties with optical scan systems) and precinct election board expenditures. The following table shows the precinct election officers as provided by law. The table also includes the average pay per election by each office.

Type of Officer	Number	Average Pay Per Election*
Inspector	1	\$129
Judge	2	\$97
Poll Clerk	2	\$94
Sheriff**	2	\$106
Asst. Poll Clerk**	2	\$94
*Based on a survey of all counties with 57 responding. **May be eliminated by resolution of entire county election board.		

Many counties are not able to fill every position, and several do not have assistant poll clerks. Additionally, counties may by resolution of the entire election board, discontinue sheriff and poll clerk appointments. Very few counties in the survey had assistant poll clerks or sheriffs.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Public schools.

Information Sources:

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